REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register:	21 October 1998
Name of applicant/court:	Secretary for Internal Affairs
Applicant to the Labelling Body:	Not Applicable
Title of Publication:	The Bloodhound Gang
Other Known Titles:	One Fierce Beer Coaster
Director:	Not Applicable
Producer:	Jimmy Pop Ali
Publisher:	Universal Music Limited
Author:	Not Applicable
Format:	Compact Disc Sound Recording
Country of Origin:	USA
Language:	English

Components of film originally examined:

Feature:	Not Applicable.	Running time:
Trailers:		Running time:
		Total Running time:

Excision/Alteration: Not Applicable.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

Classification Decision:

Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

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Display Conditions:

That when the publication is on public display, the classification given to the publication must be shown on the publication; or any package in which the publication is kept.

Descriptive Note:

Not Applicable.

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Direction to issue a label has been given on: Not Applicable.

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SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The Compact Disc Sound Recording *One Fierce Beer Coaster* by The Bloodhound Gang is classified as:
Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

The CD is by a popular American band, and contains twelve tracks with a rock/rap cross-over style and a comic edge. The songs tend to use a mixture of catchy tunes with provocative and sometimes humorous lyrics. The use of expletives is occasionally heard, but is pronounced only on two tracks.

Concern arises from the manner in which the subjects of some of the songs, notably sex and suicide, are dealt with. The CD (and the band itself) is likely to appeal to an audience of teenagers, and is currently widely available to them. On face value, the lyrics of the song *Lift Your Head Up High (And Blow Your Brains Out)* encourage the listener to commit suicide. The concern derives from this song being available to listeners who may be particularly vulnerable to the song's blatant message, or do not possess the necessary cognisance to fully comprehend the lyrics' ironic and satirical context.

The song *Kiss Me Where It Smells Funny* uses metaphors and other language which deal with the sexual act of cunnilingus in an unsubtle way. Although the sexual references are strong they are partially mitigated by the fact that overall the lyrics are intended to be humorous and are sung at a fast pace. There is also a dehumanising element to this and some of the other tracks, but it is minimal in degree.

In light of these factors the Classification Office sought the opinion of the Mental Health Services for the Department of Health, and the Office of the Commissioner for Children, both authorities concerned with the welfare of young persons and the issue of youth suicide in New Zealand. The Classification Office is subsequently of the view that the CD's availability to a younger audience is likely to be injurious to the public good. Restricting the CD to adults is necessary to minimise this likely injury given that the age group at risk from such messages consists significantly of older teenagers.

The New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 (NZBR Act) has been balanced against the criteria of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993. The classification given to the CD is a restriction on the right to freedom of expression as guaranteed in the NZBR Act. Any restriction in this instance is a significant limitation on the rights of teenagers to access music of their choice, and the Classification Office recognises this. However, in giving weight to the matters discussed above, such a restriction is both reasonable and justified as outlined in s5 of the NZBR Act.

OFLC Ref: 9701805